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The Timber Rattlesnake in Michigan

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Herpetological records in general indicate that the timber rattlesnake, *Crotalus horridus horridus* Linnaeus, has never been found in the state of Michigan. This note is to report two individuals of this species which I killed in Ottawa County, Michigan, in 1904.

In the early part of the summer of that year, in a pine woods just north of Black River and about a half-mile north of Holland, I saw my first Michigan rattlesnake. It was not very pugnacious and attempted to move away, but I killed it and saved its five rattles. Two weeks later I found another. It was south of Black River and just west of the Pere Marquette Railway embankment where the railroad crosses the river, in a gravelly region beneath some sumac shrubs. Like the other one, it was dark in color and had five rattles, but it was a little shorter than the first one. It made no attempt to escape.

These two rattlesnakes were the only ones that I ever saw, and I believe that they were the last ones killed, in this region. If any others were found later, it is likely that I would have heard of them. I lived in Holland from 1900 to 1912 and attended high school and college there. I occasionally heard reliable reports of rattlesnakes from the farmers who lived north of the city, and I saw rattles which had been taken from killed specimens.

It is possible that at one time the timber rattlesnake existed, interruptedly, throughout southwestern Michigan as far north as Ottawa County.

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